



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**May 14, 2002
Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at the Parks and Recreation Department, 200 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Rhonda Pratt, Mary Ruth Holder, Pablo Valdez, Jeff Francell, Amy Babich, Linda Guerrero and Jeb Boyt

Board Members Absent: Clint Small

City Staff Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Kimberley Jamail, Sarah Campbell and Dina Haines

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

- B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** April 23, 2002 meeting. **Board Member Francell** made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Board Member Pratt** seconded the motion. **The Board was in favor 6-0-1.** **Board Member Guerrero** abstained.

Board Member Jeb Boyt arrives 6:52 p.m.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Tommy Eden, Urban Transportation Commission gave the Commission's three recommendations regarding the Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department staff recommendations related to near-term downtown traffic projects:

1. Highest concern was that bicycle lanes should be added to Guadalupe Street and Lavaca Street.
2. Sixth Street should be the first conversion from a one way lane to a two way street.
3. The city should close Riverside Drive for a trial period.

D. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department Staff Recommendations Related to Near-Term Downtown Transportation Projects.

No staff member from the Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department was present to answer questions from the Board Members. Board members discussed the staff recommendations contained in the backup information in their packets and made the following recommendations:

With regard to transportation through the Seaholm District, the Board recommends the extension of West Avenue to Cesar Chavez in order to provide access to the Seaholm building and to facilitate its redevelopment. The Board recommends that Council disapprove the other transportation projects set forth in the draft Seaholm District Master Plan as outlined in the Board's resolution of March 12, 2002 concerning the draft Seaholm District Master Plan. The Board also recommends against the extension of 3rd Street to West Avenue in the Seaholm District.

The Board recommends the completion of the Lance Armstrong bikeway.

With regard to Riverside Drive between South First St. and Lamar Blvd. the Board recommends that the Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department staff study the following four options:

- (1.) The current staff recommendation to create a meandering realignment with one lane in each direction but with the design to include bicycle lanes, pedestrian crossings and traffic calming features;
- (2.) A plan to put parking along the outside two lanes of Riverside Dr. while leaving the inside two lanes for traffic and without realigning the road;
- (3.) The option to lower Riverside Dr. being discussed by the TPSD staff and the Town Lake Park stakeholders and;
- (4.) The closing of Riverside Dr. for a trial period. The Board recommends that TPSD staff return to the Parks Board with the result of its study of these four options prior to the staff making a recommendation concerning Riverside Dr. to Council.

Board Member Francell made the above motion. **Board Member Boyt** seconded the motion. **The vote was in favor 6-1-1.** Board Member Babich voted against the recommendation because she is against the extension of West Avenue to Cesar Chavez. Board Member Babich also expressed concerns that the pedestrian walkway at West Avenue and 3rd Street would be closed. Board Member Guerrero abstained.

2. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Dedication of Lott Park Expansion Tracts.

Sarah Campbell, Senior Planner with Planning Department, distributed an aerial map of Lott Park showing the new parkland to be acquired by PARD that adjoins existing Lott Park. The lots belong to the city's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department, and were originally purchased with Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as part of a housing redevelopment project. Neighborhood Housing agreed that the lots could become parkland upon award of the grant. PARD must have the three lots formally dedicated as parkland by City Council and then PARD will rezone the lots to a P-Public District. The expanded Lott Park will have a splash fountain feature, a basketball court and picnic shelters.

Board Member Pratt made a motion to recommend that City Council move forward with the dedication of Lott Park expansion tracts as parkland. **Board Member Valdez** seconded the motion. The motion passed in favor 7-0-1. Board Member Guerrero abstained.

G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares informed the board that the January sale tax figures reflected a 9% drop from last year's sale tax payments to the city. City wide 245 vacant positions were frozen and of those frozen position, 44 are PARD positions.

Mr. Olivares also informed the Board about the Austin City Limits concerts to be held in Zilker Park, September 28 and 29, 2002; PARD will profit \$50,000 from this event.

Mr. Olivares invited board members to Officer Jones Sr. Memorial to be held Tuesday, May 28 at 10:00 a.m. The memorial will take place on Robert E. Lee Road.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Summer Playground Program will be begin Wednesday, May 29 and open at 42 sites.

Land and Facilities Committee

Board Member Holder told the Members that at the last meeting of the subcommittee, the Old Bakery Board discussed their concerns regarding the Susanna Dickinson Home. The Land and Facilities Subcommittee will meet with members of the Historic Landmark Commission in a joint subcommittee effort to try to ensure that the Old Bakery Board's concerns are being met if and when the Susanna Dickinson home is relocated to the Old Bakery Board site. Ms. Holder also informed the board of an upcoming item to be placed on May 28 Parks Board Agenda regarding the replacement of deteriorated wastewater lines throughout various watersheds in the City including in parks. The project is the result of an enforcement action taken against the City by the federal Environmental Protection

Agency for wastewater discharges. The Water and Wastewater Department is seeking the Board input on the part of this project that affects parks and recreational facilities.

Navigation Committee

None

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Castleberry introduced Linda H. Guerrero to the Parks Board. Ms. Guerrero is the newly appointed Parks Board Member. Ms. Guerrero is an original Austinite and is a Special Education Teacher with AISD.

I. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.